

PHARISEES AND GENTILES (Matthew 15:1-39)

CONNECT—Think of a fun-icebreaker question to ask. For example, if you could play one professional sport, which one would you play and why?

DISCUSS

What most stood out to you from Justin's sermon this past week? What was one of your big takeaways? Justin described the Kingdom of God as both now and not yet at the beginning of his sermon. How have you experienced that to be the case?

Read Matthew 15:1-20

What stands out to you about these verses?

What are some of the main issues that Jesus has with the Pharisees' regulations? What are some ways that we add regulations on top of God's commandments? What are some other ways that you see Christians in Southwest Missouri acting like Pharisees?

Are regulations added on top of God's commandments always bad? Why or why not? What are some examples of some good regulations that you impose on yourself? [For example, having a Quiet Time in the morning is a regulation that is added on top of God's commandments.] When do regulations become bad?

Read verses 10 and 11. What is Jesus saying in these verses and why is it important? If Jesus is primarily concerned with what come out of our hearts, how does that lead us to run to Him for grace and power? Describe a time recently when you felt like you had to run to Jesus for grace and power.

Read Matthew 15:21-28

What stands out to you about these verses?

What did this woman understand about Jesus when she came to Him? Why do you think that Jesus says what He say in verse 26?

Justin talked about an "I'm fine" mask that many Christians wear. Describe a time when you wore an "I'm fine" mask. What were some of the results of wearing that mask? The

Canaanite woman ran to Jesus in desperation. Describe a time when you ran to Jesus in desperation. What were some of the results?

Read Matthew 15:29-39

What stands out to you about these verses?

What do these verses add to this chapter?

RELATE—Consider splitting into guys and girls for this section.

What has been your biggest spiritual highlight this week? What has been your biggest spiritual struggle this week? What is one action step that you are going to take this week in light of this discussion?

IMPACT (Invite, Engage, Share)

Who is one person that you are going to invite to church next week?